

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

COME-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 L-03 RSR-01 /152 W

----- 106749

R 041703 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN, LI, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE IRON ORE MISSION TO COME TO LIBERIA.

1. APRIL 2 LIBERIAN STAR QUOTED GOL FINMIN STEPHEN TOLBERT AS ANOUNCING ARRIVAL HERE ON APRIL 11 OF SEVEN- MAN TECHNICAL MISSION REPRESENTING FIVE JAPANESE STEEL COMPANIES " FOR AN INITIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE OVERALL DEPOSITS OF IRON ORE IN LIBERIA." ACCORDING TO THE STAR, THE JAPNESE CONSORTIUM CONSITS OF NIPPON STEEL, NIPPON KOKAN, KAWASAKI STEEL, SUMITOMO METAL AND KOBE STEEL.

2. THE JAPANESE, WHO ARE EXPECTED TO SPEND TWO WEEKS HERE, WILL INSPECT IRON ORE DEPOSTS AT BIE MOUNTAIN, WOLOGISI, MT. TOKADEH, AND PUTU. " TOP GEOLOGISTS" FROM REPUBLIC STEEL AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL IRON ORE COMPANY (NIOC) WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE BIE DEPOSTS.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SPECULATE ON WHAT JAPAN INC, IS UP TO IN THIS PART OF THE IRON ORE WORLD. OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN ENOUGH JAPANESE DELEGATIONS HERE TO

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OBVIATE THE NEED FOR MORE UNLESS THIS LATEST ONE IS, FOR EXAMPLE,
TO EXHIBIT GOOD WILL TOWARD LIBERIA AND THE TOLBERT ADMINISTRATION.

4. ON MARCH 30, STEPHEN TOLBERT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE FOCUS
OF JAPANESE INTEREST IS ON BIE. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE
PARTICIPATION IN THESE DISCUSSIONS OF REPS FROM REPUBLIC AND NOIC
WHICH ALSO HAVE INTEREST IN/ CLAIMS TO THE BIE DEPOSIT AND WHICH,
ACCORDING TO LCAO REPUBLIC SOURCES, STILL REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE
EXPLORATION.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT APPEARS THAT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING
NEEDED TO START UP WOLOGISI IS KNOWN EXCEPT WHERE THE \$500-
\$600 MILLION FINANCING WOULD COME FROM. THE GERMAN- ITALIAN
BONG MINING COMPANY HOLDS SOME SORT OF CONCESSION FROM THE GOL TO
EXPLORE PUTU AND HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT AT LEAST SOME WORK THERE
OVER THE PAST YEARS. THE MENTION OF TOKADEH IS, ON THE SURFACE,
RATHER CURIOUS SINCE IT IS IN THE LAMCO CONCESSION AREA AND WAS
BROUGHT ON STREAM BY THAT COMPANY IN DECEMBER 1972.
MANFULL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MONROV01698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730433/aaaahpsf.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971126
Subject: JAPANESE IRON ORE MISSION TO COME TO LIBERIA.
TAGS: EMIN, JA, LI
To: ABIDJAN
CONAKRY
EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

